

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3193
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
THORIUM DETECTION FROM SEA COAST
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Thorium has been found from the sea coast along Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated deposits and the value of the precious metal thereof; and
- (d) the action plan drawn up by the Government for extracting the metal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) Beach sand mineral in the sea coast along Kerala and the other Coastal States contains mineral monazite which has thorium. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of this Department has established resources of 10.21 million tonnes of monazite in the country which contains 0.918 million tonnes of thorium oxide from which about 8,07,713 tonnes of thorium metal can be obtained. Out of the 10.21 million tonnes of monazite established, 1.37 million tonnes of monazite is from Kerala.

(d) The Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking of this Department is operating a monazite processing plant at Udyogamandal, Kerala to process monazite and stockpile thorium concentrate for future use. IREL has also plans to set up such a plant at Orissa.